

the Overtimes

News for the People in Montgomery County Government

January/February 2004



Employee Works Hard to Get the Vote Out

Gilberto Zelaya has spent most of his professional career and college years reaching out to multicultural populations in one way or another. So, serving as the Board of Elections' Multicultural Outreach Liaison is nothing new to him.

Zelaya was hired by the Elections office last September specifically to target multicultural populations in Montgomery County in an effort to register voters and recruit election judges. Because the Washington-Metropolitan area is ranked the fifth most common destination for legal immigrants to the U.S., it is vital that this population be reached. To help him reach out to all the communities in Montgomery County, Zelaya recruited community members to serve on a Multicultural Outreach Committee. These individuals are trained to operate the voting equipment, and are then sent into their respective communities to help register voters and encourage those who are registered to serve as election judges.

"Convincing immigrants from other countries that they, as new citizens of this country, should register to vote and

participate in the election process is not a simple task," said Zelaya. "Many immigrants come from countries where people have been killed for exercising their right to vote."

Zelaya's parents are immigrants from El Salvador and he was born and raised in New York. His family moved to the Washington area in the '80s, and he attended Richard Montgomery High School and went on to George Washington University. During his college years, Zelaya spent summers traveling abroad and conducting outreach efforts in public health, community mobilization and information access.

Prior to his work with the Elections office, Zelaya served three years in Public Libraries as an outreach director, where he worked to improve library services and programs for "non-traditional" immigrant users who might not be familiar with library services.

Anyone interested in serving as an election judge in the upcoming elections can visit the Board of Elections web site at www.777vote.org to sign up or get more information.

Black History Month Activities

Montgomery County's annual Black History Month celebration is planned for Tuesday, February 3 at 6 p.m., in the Executive Office Building lobby auditorium.

This year's celebration, "An Expression of Black Heritage Through Life Experiences," will feature community activists Tony Bray and Karen Jackson Knight as honored guests.

Sponsored by the Office of the County Executive, the program will feature a movie with popcorn, and musical entertainment during the intermission.

For more information, call 240-777-2500.

Montgomery's New Police Chief



C o u n t y Executive Douglas M. Duncan announced the appointment of J. Thomas Manger as the new Chief of Police. Manger served as Fairfax County's Police Chief for the past five years, and he worked closely

with Montgomery County law enforcement officials last year as a member of the Sniper Investigation Task Force. He will fill the vacancy left by Charles Moose, who resigned from the position in July 2003.

Manger graduated from the University of Maryland in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. He began his career with the Fairfax County Police Department as a patrol officer, and rose through the ranks to Acting Police Chief in 1998 and Police Chief in 1999.

In Memoriam

Bolawa Olabode Lofinmakin, 58, Department of Public Works and Transportation, passed away on October 31 following a brief illness.

Lofinmakin had worked for the County for three years in Fleet Management Services. He is survived by his wife Adefunke and four children.



Paul M. Mutchler, Department of Public Works and Transportation's Division of Fleet Management Services, passed away on September 23.

Mutchler had served 23 years in the division, first as a mechanic and then as a mechanic leader.

He is survived by his wife Patricia.

Adopt-A-Pet

MC Humane Society



Portia, six months old, and her mother Cleopatra, one year old, are female, domestic shorthairs available for adoption through the Montgomery County Humane Society. They

were given up for adoption when their family moved from the area and can be adopted together or separately. Visit the animal shelter Monday through Friday, 1 - 7 p.m. and Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. 240-773-5930 or www.mchumane.org.

(Beginning with this issue, the *Overtimes* will regularly feature an adoptable pet from the County's Animal Shelter.)

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February is for Library Lovers

A variety of programs for all ages will be presented at public libraries in celebration of Library Lovers Month in February.

There will be programs designed for very young children to promote reading, including simple stories, songs, finger plays and puppets. Pre-school children can participate in activities celebrating and relating to Valentine's Day. Events for adults will range from book discussions to meet the author and adult education programs.

The Friends of the Library is offering "Romance for Sale," at two book sales. The first will be held on February 14 at Wheaton Library, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and the second on February 15 at the Friends Bookstore located at 4886 Boiling



Brook Parkway, Rockville, from noon to 5 p.m. Other book sales taking place during the month include February 7 at the Germantown Library, February 14 at the Potomac Library and February 21 at Fairland Library's "Buy-By-The-Bag Romance" sale.

Library Lovers Month will kick off on Saturday, January 31 with a celebration at Kensington Park Library featuring children's entertainer Nicolo Whimsey, arts and crafts, family activities and ice cream treats. The celebration will begin at 10 a.m.

For detailed information on Library Lovers Month activities, visit a local public library or log onto www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library.

Overheard On the Elevator



Recent retirements - **BILL MOONEY**, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, retired in December after more than 30 years service. Mooney started his career in 1973 as a Montgomery County

Police Officer, and in 1989 transferred to the Office of Management and Budget as budget supervisor. In 1994, he was promoted to an Assistant Chief Administrative Officer where his primary focus turned to urban center issues and coordination of special projects. Mooney has since moved on to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, where he will work with public-private partnerships...**FRANCIS**

BROWN, Public Works and Transportation, retired after more than 29 years with the County. Brown served as a security officer for the past 20 years, with prior service as a heavy-duty equipment operator at the landfill. Brown is looking forward to spending more



time with his family and singing with his church choir.

JOE BEACH was recently named Assistant Chief Administrative Officer. Beach was Budget Manager in the Office of Management and Budget. He also served as Acting Director of the office, following the retirement of Bob Kendal in November 2002.

Toastmasters Club President **JOY GREY-SAUNDERS** and vice president of education **CHRISTINE MOWBRAY** represented Montgomery County's club at the organization's November conference. Both were recognized for awards received during the previous year, and the Montgomery County chapter was recognized as a President's Distinguished club for fiscal year '03, under the leadership of former club president **DEBRA JONES**.

Kudos to **LASANTHA DAHANAIKE** and **CAROL HAYNES** in the Office of Human Rights (OHR) for coordinating the successful presentation of the Land Mine Removal Program in December. The program was co-sponsored by the Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington, Inc. OHR hosted the event as part of the County's annual United Nations Human Rights Day celebration.



Vintage Truck Finds New Home – HHS employee Elizabeth Boehner donated her late husband's lovingly restored 1930 Chevrolet Express truck to a living history state park in West Virginia.

Employee Donates Late Husband's Vintage Truck to State Park

When her husband, Ken Meadows, passed away, Elizabeth Boehner, Aging and Disability Services, was at a loss as to what to do with his cherished 1930, fully restored Chevy truck. After much thought and consideration, she decided to donate the truck to her late husband's favorite park, Cass Scenic Railroad Park, a historic state park in West Virginia.

As a "living history" park, the town has been recreated exactly as it was in the 1930's when the logging company that owned the town and the railroad was at its height. Employees wear period costume and the trains are the actual engines that were in use during that time. A big park attraction is train rides on the original logging track up to the top of Spruce Knob, the second highest mountain in West Virginia.

After some research by staff, it was discovered that the company store had a 1930 Chevy Express truck, so they painted the name of the store – Pocahontas Trading Company – on the side. During weekdays, the truck is parked in front of the store, and on weekends they drive it around the park, simulating the activity that would have been going on in town.

"I am not a wealthy person but I consider myself blessed that I was able to find a home for the truck where it can be enjoyed by people for generations to come," said Boehner.

For anyone interested in visiting the park, it is located in Cass, West Virginia. Visit the web site at www.cassrailroad.com, for more information and driving directions.

Recreation Guide Available Soon

The new *Recreation Department Spring 2004 Guide* – available in mid-February – is chock full of more than 800 offerings. There is something for everyone, regardless of age or interest. Classes and programs range from arts and crafts, cooking, dance for pre-school and youth, martial arts, and much more.



Recreation Guides are available in County libraries, aquatic, senior, community and regional services centers and County office buildings.

To check out available classes online, go to the Recreation Department's web site at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec.

HR Notes

Office of Human Resources

2003 Claims for Flexible Spending Accounts

If you have a flexible spending account, don't forget to submit claims for reimbursement of 2003 dependent care or health care expenses to FlexAmerica no later than March 31, 2004. You will forfeit the money in your account if you do not claim it by that date.

Verification of Student Status

In February, OHR will send letters to employees asking them to verify the full-time student status for the Spring 2004 semester of dependents aged 19-25 who are enrolled in County group insurance plans. Please send us documentation WITH the OHR letter you received so we can match the student to the right employee. The processing of your coverage continuation may be delayed without the OHR letter. Please write the employee's SSN on all documents submitted. If you don't provide verification, OHR will assume that your dependent is no longer a full-time student and discontinue your dependent's insurance coverage effective March 31, 2004. Our vendor, ComLink, will then send a COBRA notice to your home.

February 10 Blood Drive

The next blood drive will be held on Tuesday, February 10, in the EOB Lobby Auditorium from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-448-3543.

Montgomery's Best Honor Awards

The County Executive and Chief Administrative Officer will host the fourth annual Montgomery's Best Honor Awards on February 19. County employees, volunteers, residents, and private organizations are eligible for these prestigious awards. Recipients of the County's 38 NACo (National Association of Counties) Achievement Awards for 2003 will also be recognized at the ceremony. Sixty-seven awards will be presented to a total of 508 recipients, including employees from 19 different County departments.

**Happy
Valentine's Day!**

ROOMS FOR RENT -

Kensington. Two large bedrooms with private full baths for rent in townhouse. Share large furnished kitchen, dining and living rooms. Nice neighborhood and convenient commute to Rockville. \$400 and \$500 per month. Call 301-933-7261.

BEACH HOUSE FOR RENT - Outer Banks, NC. Five bdr., 4.5 baths, Great Room, sleeps 14. Ocean view, private pool, hot tub and more. Half mile walk to beach. Call 301-309-2197 or e-mail JULIEBARTLETT@VERIZON.NET.

TIMESHARE FOR SALE OR RENT - North Miami Beach, Sunny Isles Beach. Sleeps six. Available March 2004. \$10,000 or \$1,250/week. Call Fazee, 305-651-8955 or 954-485-9433.

Backpage Bargains

County employees may submit ads, non-commercial only, with name and home and office phone number to Information Office, 4th floor, EOB. Ads may appear one time only. Deadline for the next issue is March 19.

'95 NISSAN TRUCK - 4WD, King Cab XE. V6 5-spd., camper cap, PS/PB, A/C, cruise, AM/FM cassette, sliding rear window, alarm, extra seating. New battery, brakes and timing belt. Runs and looks great. Original owner, never wrecked. 59k miles. \$8,500/best offer. Call Mike, 301-580-9223.

'01 VOLVO S40 - auto transmission, black w/tan leather interior, sunroof, winter package, inc. heated seats. 55k miles. Well maintained, great condition. \$15,000. Call Jeanne, 240-777-7288.

FOR SALE - antique 48" round oak table with four Windsor chairs. \$400. Call Gwen, 301-926-1454.

SCANNER - NFRB Paperport OneTouch 5300 from Visioneer. New, still in the box.

Scan, fax, copy, or email with the touch of a button. Includes all software. \$60/best offer. Call Maurine, 240-777-7238.

FURNITURE - dining table, 4' round w/leaf, rosewood, \$50. Platform bed, queen size, w/storage drawers, \$100. Mattress, queen size, like new, \$75. Bunk beds, metal frames, \$45. Foam rubber mattress, \$20. "Egg crate" foam mattress cover, queen size, \$25. Desk w/2 shelves on right side, \$25. Eight shelf unit, white, \$45. Call Pat Spranger, 301-587-5495.



HHS Employees Celebrate Holidays — The Department of Health and Human Services held its eighth annual holiday party at Indian Spring Country Club in early December. More than 300 employees attended the annual event and enjoyed dinner, dancing and socializing with their fellow employees. When submitting its table reservation, Aging and Disability Services decided they needed a more interesting name and called themselves the "Reindeer Liberation Front." Pictured above, in appropriate attire, are (left to right): Richard Mower; Jay Kenney, Aging & Disability Services Chief; Marilyn Mower, Senior Nutrition Program; David Ackerman; Linda Anderson, Medicaid Waiver; and Elizabeth Boehner, Area Agency on Aging.



Thanksgiving In February

Help feed the hungry by dining out on Tuesday, February 3. Participating restaurants will donate 10, 15 or 20 percent of their February 3 receipts to "Thanksgiving in February." All proceeds will be distributed among ten local non-profit organizations that provide food to qualifying clients throughout Montgomery County.

For a list of participating restaurants visit the Community Ministry's web site at www.communityministrymc.org.

February 16 Presidents' Day Holiday